

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 9, 2007

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women was held on Monday, April 9, 2007 in Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

President Lesser called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. with no quorum present.

The following Commissioners were present for roll call:

President Lesser
Vice President Duba
Treasurer Creary
Commissioner Jernigan
Commissioner Rodriguez
Commissioner Tanberg

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Lesser reported the following:

- She attended the East Los Angeles Women's Center 30th Anniversary Celebration at the Autry Center on March 29, 2007.
- On March 30, 2007 she attended the Women's History Month Pioneer Women Breakfast Reception and Awards Presentation at the Tom Bradley Tower Council Chambers in Los Angeles.

(Commissioner Pinedo and Commissioner Gravely joined the meeting at 10:07 a.m. constituting a quorum)

- She received a large donation from the Honda Corporation of blankets, flashlights, and windbreaker jackets. The items were donated to the Downtown Women's Center, the Chicana Center and the East Los Angeles Women's Center to help the homeless.
- She shared several "Thank You" notes from Areva Martin, Lisa Watson, Angie Papadakis, and Patty DeDominic. She also received a letter from the 1736 Crisis Center thanking the Commission for the \$1,500 shelter donation.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 26, 2007

On motion of Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Vice President Duba, with Commissioner Tanberg abstaining, and duly carried, the minutes of March 26, 2007 were approved with the following corrections:

Page 6, 7th paragraph; Genevieve ~~Glaurvel~~ Clavreul...

Page 6, Public Comment, add; Dr. Reverend Lorna Crosse would like to attend the Health Committee meetings but has not received any agendas or information on the committee meetings. Staff will ensure that Reverend Crosse is sent all future mailings.

Page 7, 3rd bullet: Halle Berry was the ~~Mistress of Ceremonies~~ Chair of the Year of Giving...

Page 7, Guests, add: Reverend Dr. Lorna Crosse

STAFF REPORT

Staff reported the following:

- The National Council of Jewish Women of Los Angeles will host a complimentary community event on Wednesday, April 18, 2007 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the NCJW/LA Headquarters, 543 N. Fairfax Ave. in Los Angeles. The program is titled "Kids at Risk. What we need to know about on line predators/internet safety".
- Distributed flyers for the 10th Annual Remembering our Veterans and Their Families Past, Present and Future event on Saturday, May 26, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Arcadia County Park, 405 S. Santa Anita Ave. in Arcadia. This is an annual event hosted by Supervisor Antonovich.
- Five new employees recently joined the Executive Office. Andrew Sevrin and Mireya Rivera are the newest members of Commission Services.
- Commissioners are encouraged to stop by the Executive Office to see the new display case. There will be three digital picture frames displaying events, including pictures for the Women of the Year Awards luncheon.

Introduction of the audience followed.

ESTABLISH A NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND SELECT NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR FOR ELECTION OF COMMISSION OFFICERS FOR FY 2007-2008

President Lesser chose the following Commissioners to serve on the Nominating Committee for election of Commission Officers for FY 2007-08:

Commissioner Jernigan, Chair, Second District
Commissioner Pinedo, First District
Commissioner ZeBrack, Third District
Commissioner Tanberg, Fourth District
Commissioner Gravely, Fifth District

Staff will mail out the Declaration of Candidacy forms to all Commissioners on April 10, 2007. Voting will take place on June 11, 2007. There will be no meeting at the end of May in observance of Memorial Day.

PURCHASE UP TO FIVE TICKETS AT \$120 EACH FOR THE 2-DAY 9TH ANNUAL MULTICULTURAL CONFERENCE ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2007 AND THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2007 FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M. AT THE PASADENA CONFERENCE CENTER

Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Treasurer Creary, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to purchase up to five tickets at \$120 each for the 2-day 9th Annual Multicultural Conference on Wednesday, May 16, 2007 and Thursday, May 17, 2007 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Pasadena Conference Center.

APPROVAL OF THE GUIDELINES FOR DONATION OF FUNDS TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS AND AGENCIES

This item was tabled until the next Commission meeting.

APPROVAL TO REIMBURSE THE PRESIDENT'S FUND FOR 2 TICKETS TO THE 2007 SILVER ROSE AWARDS & AUCTION GALA ON SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2007 AT THE BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$350.00

Following discussion, on motion of Vice President Duba, seconded by Commissioner Gravely, with Commissioner Rodriguez and Commissioner Pinedo abstaining, and duly carried, the Commission approved to reimburse the President's Fund for 2 tickets to the 2007 Silver Rose Awards & Auction Gala on Sunday, March 25, 2007 at the Beverly Hills Hotel in the amount of \$350.00.

OVERVIEW OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES

Caroline Wittcoff, Assistant United States Attorney, Department of Justice presented information on the Los Angeles Metro Task Force. Ms. Wittcoff has been with the Department of Justice over 14 years and currently is the Co-Chair of the Los Angeles Metro Task Force. There are 43 task forces in Los Angeles County comprised of representatives from Federal, State, local and non governmental agencies. She provided the following facts regarding victims of human trafficking:

- They do not self report.
- They are usually hidden away or housed somewhere, then driven to a place to work.
- They have language barriers.
- They do not know their rights.

There are approximately 200 Human Trafficking laws, many which include important rights and benefits for the victims, such as:

- The victim can legally stay in the United States for duration of a case.
- Some family members of the victims may come to the United States.
- Victims may qualify for some refugee benefits.
- Victims may be able to get work permits.

Ms. Wittcoff shared that the Task Force has an aggressive outreach campaign that includes educating first responders. They have a 6 minute video that is shown to Law Enforcement at Roll Call to assist their efforts in identifying human trafficking victims.

Other types of outreach include public billboards with a 24 hour hotline number and bumper stickers that will be placed on all City of Los Angeles vehicles.

Ms. Wittcoff shared information on two recent cases of human trafficking rings that were successfully taken down. Treasurer Creary inquired about what happens to rescued, minor, human trafficking victims. Ms. Wittcoff responded that children protective services assist the victims. Commissioner Jernigan commented on the Commission's involvement with the El Monte sweat shops case and how the Jenesse Center was able to assist some of the victims. Commissioner Rodriguez suggested that the staff of domestic violence shelters would benefit from the Task Force training. Ms. Wittcoff invited everyone to visit www.nohumantrafficking.org for additional information.

ENDORSE EQUAL PAY DAY ON APRIL 24, 2007

Following discussion, on motion of Treasurer Creary, seconded by Commissioner Tanberg, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to endorse Equal Pay Day on April 24, 2007. Staff will include information on the Commission's website and send out a reminder to Commissioners via email.

REVIEW METROCARE PLAN LETTER OF RESPONSE FROM DR. CHERNOF, DIRECTOR AND CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER AND HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Tanberg reported that the Health Committee met on April 4, 2007 and reviewed the letter of response from Dr. Chernof. Commissioner Tanberg explained that the letter was organized to answer each question that was asked in the original letter to him. Treasurer Creary reported that Drew Hospital Physicians that are not County employees will be off of the County payroll as of June 30, 2007. She also stated that although the resident program is closed, the residents will be placed in other County health institutions.

At the Health Committee meeting, the members agreed to request from their Health Deputies, a copy of the MetroCare Plan weekly update that is provided to the Board of Supervisors. Committee members will also monitor the Board of Supervisors meeting minutes for updates on the plan.

Jessica St. John provided an update on the Office of Women's Health Planning Council. President Lesser shared that the invitations for the upcoming Health Summit will be mailed the week of April 9th and she has also requested 25 invitations be sent to the Commission Services office.

UPDATE ON THE 5K RUN/WALK

Vice President Duba distributed 2 handouts with information on the 9th Annual 5K. The first flyer contained information on the suggested name change for the 5K. The Ad-Hoc 5K Run/Walk Committee suggested changing the name to the LA County Run for Health 9th Annual 5K Run/Walk and Wellness Expo. Vice President Duba requested approving the proposed name change to be placed on the next Commission meeting

agenda. The only change will be the name and the proceeds will continue to fund the education scholarships.

The second flyer contained information on Ernie Van Leeuwen, the oldest entrant in the Los Angeles Marathon. Mr. Van Leeuwen passed away in February of 2007 and the Committee would like to memorialize him at this years 5K. Over 1,000 members of the L.A. Leggers have promised to take part in the event. An e-blast to all the members has been sent as well as save the date information in the clubs newsletter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Older Women's Issues Committee: Pat Wilson reported that she will be attending a meeting today at 1:00 p.m.

Domestic Violence Committee: Commissioner Rodriguez reported that she has secured four salons to participate in the "Cut It Out" program. To date, there are 10 salons committed in Los Angeles City and County and the goal is 40. Commissioner Pinedo suggested identifying the contact for an upcoming annual salon expo to be held in Las Vegas. Commissioner Rodriguez distributed a flyer for the "Men's March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault & Gender Violence" on April 28, 2007 at the Sherman Oaks Galleria.

(Commissioner Becerra-Jones arrived at 11:37 p.m.)

Gender Equity Committee: No report.

Legislative Committee: No report.

Education Committee: Commissioner Becerra-Jones reported that the Committee will be meeting April 9, 2007 at 12:30 p.m. following the Commission meeting. They will be updating the 2007 scholarship application and choosing a theme.

Media/Public Relations Committee: No report.

Special Events/5K Run/Walk Committee: No report.

Ad-Hoc Procedures Committee: No report.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Reverend Lorna Crosse reported that she will be meeting with the Executive Director of Jewish Watch to discuss solutions to the problems facing refugees. She has suggested that the Domestic Violence Committee contact cosmetology schools regarding the "Cut it Out" program. Reverend Crosse also commented on her visit with Commissioner Mummey and informed the Commission that Commissioner Mummey will no longer be residing at the nursing center.

Genevieve Clavreul stated that some of the physicians from King Drew reported that the patient shuttle is not running. She shared a letter addressed to L.A. County District Attorney, Steve Cooley regarding a violation of the Brown Act at the March 27, 2007 Board of Supervisors meeting. She stated that item A3 was not held for discussion or published on the held item list and the Board went to into closed session where it has been reported that A3 was discussed. She has requested that the violation be "corrected or cured".

She also visited Commissioner Mummey and is very concerned with the conditions of the facility, especially the cleanliness. She stated she spoke with the Director of Nurses at the facility.

Lastly, Ms. Clavreul voiced concern regarding a patient that stayed 5 days in the emergency room at King Drew/Harbor UCLA she will provide the Commission with a follow-up.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Rodriguez attended the East Los Angeles' 30th Anniversary Celebration at the Autry Center on March 29, 2007.

Treasurer Creary attended the following events:

- East Los Angeles Women Center's 30th Anniversary Gala at the Autry National Center on March 29, 2007.
- Los Angeles City Council and Los Angeles Commission on the Status of Women 2007 Women's History Month, Pioneer Women Breakfast Reception & Award Presentations at the Tom Bradley Tower & City Council Chambers on March 30, 2007.
- Association of Black Cardiologists & Association of Black Women Physicians, Women Physician Lecture Series "Lupus in Women" at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Marina del Rey on March 30, 2007.
- Association of Black Women Physicians Scholarship Fundraiser at Fisherman's Village in Marina Del Rey.
- Health legislative meeting with Assemblyman Mervyn Dymally in Compton on April 2, 2007.
- Health meeting with Dr. Gail Wyatt, Clinical Professor, U.C.L.A., titled "Caring for Our Mental Health" including research with Women of Color-HIV/AIDS, sexual behavior and other related topics on April 7, 2007 in Marina Del Rey.

Treasurer Creary suggested inviting Dr. Gail Wyatt, Clinical Professor, U.C.L.A. to speak about research on HIV/AIDS and legislation at a future Commission meeting. She also announced that the Finance Committee will meet on April 23, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss and review the Commission Trust Fund.

MATTERS NOT POSTED ON THE AGENDA (to be presented and placed on a future agenda): President Lesser would like the review of the Commission goals to be placed on the next agenda.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. with a moment of silence in memory of Tom Martin, Deputy of Supervisor Don Knabe.

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSIONERS

Charlotte Lesser, President
Reiko Duba, Vice President
Ruth Creary, Ph.D., Treasurer
Wadie Gravely
Ruth Jernigan
Michelle Pinedo
Olivia Rodriguez
Bobbi Jean Tanberg
Yolanda Becerra-Jones

EXCUSED

Peggy Freeman
Janet Mummey, Esq.
Karin Davalos
Elise ZeBrack

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Rhonda Rangel, Nyla Jefferson, and Twila P. Kerr, Executive Office

GUESTS

Genevieve Clavreul
Reverend Dr. Lorna Crosse
Mary Griffith
Michelle Sumpter Ries
Pat Wilson
Caroline Wittcoff